

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Huston on 21 May 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 11, after "socket;," -- and

the socket is generally spherical and the insert is generally a spherical ball adapted to fit into the socket;-- has been inserted.

Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim 6, line 1, "5" has been changed to --1--.

Claim 21, line 14, "joint." has been changed to --joint; and

the socket is generally spherical and the insert is generally a spherical ball adapted to fit into the socket.-- has been inserted.

The technical merits of the drawings filed on 23 November 2003 are acceptable subject to correction of the following. The drawings are generally informal and include inconsistent and illegible reference numerals, and details made unclear by inconsistently dark and uniform drawing lines. In addition, the drawings contain extraneous matter, e.g., stray marks. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, new formal drawings are required. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a

competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. Correction is required in reply to this action and the requirement will not be held in abeyance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Comstock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4710 (a detailed message should be left if Examiner is unavailable). If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone or voicemail are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert, can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David Comstock/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Eduardo C. Robert/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733